

Brownfields Assessment Pilots

City of Nashville and Davidson County, TN

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the City of Nashville and Davidson County for a Brownfields Assessment Pilot. Nashville (population 574,739), which is the state capital, is located on the Cumberland River in central Tennessee. The city and county consolidated to form one of the nation's first metropolitan government organizations. This Pilot targets industrial and commercial properties along Nashville's waterfront where several prime lots are vacant or underused. Most of these properties are suspected of having environmental contamination from historical uses such as steel and scrap metal recycling, meat packing, packaging, and other heavy industrial operations.

The pollution, blight, and disinvestment associated with properties along the riverfront have discouraged redevelopment and contributed to the decline of nearby neighborhoods. Fifty-nine percent of the 12,990 residents in the Pilot area live in poverty, compared with eight percent for the city. Unemployment is 18 percent compared to five percent citywide, and the Pilot area population is 72 percent minority compared to about 30 percent for the city.

OBJECTIVES

Nashville and Davidson County's overall objective is to implement and institutionalize a brownfields program to clean up pollution caused by contaminated properties along the Cumberland River in downtown Nashville. The redevelopment of brownfields is expected to revitalize the area economically and improve the quality of life in adversely affected neighborhoods. The Pilot will facilitate the identification and assessment of priority sites, create partnerships with citizens and private owners, and help leverage other funding and assistance.

PILOT SNAPSHOT

Date of Announcement: May 2002

Amount: \$200,000

City of Nashville and Davidson County, Tennessee **Profile:** The Pilot targets brownfields near low-income, high minority inner city neighborhoods along the waterfront in downtown Nashville.

Contacts:

City of Nashville and Davidson County - Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency (615) 252-8410 Regional Brownfields Team U.S. EPA Region 4 (404)562-8661

Visit the EPA Region 4 Brownfields web site at: http://www.epa.gov/region4/waste/bf/index.htm

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Identifying and prioritizing potential brownfield sites along the waterfront;
- Conducting Phase I environmental assessments on all potential brownfields sites in the project area;

- Conducting three to five Phase II environmental assessments on high priority sites;
- Developing cleanup plans; and
- Involving the communities affected by the sites in decision making.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.